



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 10/6/2010

Thompson School Building Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, October 6, 2010
 Arlington High School
 Superintendent's Office – 6th Floor
 7:00 pm

Present:

Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Vice Chair
 Rob Juusola, Vice Chair TSBC
 John Cole, PTBC Chair
 Brian Sullivan, Town Manager
 Sheri Donovan, Thompson School Principal
 Domenic Lanzillotti, Town of Arlington, Purchasing Agent
 Mark Miano, Supt of Bldg Services, PTBC
 Tobey Jackson, Thompson School Parent Rep
 Suzanne Robinson, TSBC, PTBC
 Bill Shea, TSBC, PTBC
 Tony Lionetta, Capital Planning Rep
 Karen Tassone / Secretary
 Jeff Thielman, School Committee Rep

Attendees:

PMA Consultants, Kevin Nigro
 HMFH Architects, George Metzger, Lori Cowles
 Mark Ryder, Director of Special Education APS
 Julie Dunn, APS

Call to order: 7:05

Preliminary Financial Analysis of Early Childhood Center

Julie Dunn and Mark Ryder reviewed the power point presentation on the early childhood center at the Thompson School. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Risks to Pre K Program (current space at AHS sub-standard, (potentially affecting accreditation)
- Pre K Students in Arlington – 150 serviced in 2009-2010 ages 0-35 months, 52 additional evaluations were determined to be eligible.
- In-District Pre K Programs – currently providing services to 56 students in district
- Integrated Pre K & Preschool 1 - students separated into 3 groups:
 1. PreK and Preschool 16 SpEd students, ages 3 & 4 in 2 inclusion classroom with non-SpEd students. PreSchool II – 6 SpEd students ages 3 & 4 in one classroom. Services Only – 34 SpEd students who do not attend APS PreK programs but receive services from APS specialists.
 2. \$524,477 – the cost of integrated pre k & preschool students
- \$542,144 – the cost to educate all 16 students
- \$17,667 - Annual Savings
- \$113,000 – Tuition received from non-SpEd students
- \$130,667 – adjusted savings
 - PreSchool II
 1. \$168,815 – cost to run PreSchol II
- \$322,766 – cost to educate all 6 students out-of-district in similar program
- \$163,951 – Annual savings
- Potential Cost Risk of Losing In-District PreK Programs

1. \$3,855,868 total lifetime cost if 4 PreK & Preschool I students continue out-of-district.
2. \$2,476,244 total lifetime cost if 2 Preschool II students continue out-of-district
3. \$1,871,493 total lifetime cost to educate 6 students in-district PreK – 12

- Other advantages:

Enhanced in-district programming allows students to remain connected with home community and peers, quality facilities promote trust, confidence & willingness to commit to an in-district education, allows a measure of control over cost increases, in-district minimizes transportation costs.

The committee questioned what is the real concern over losing accreditation (very concerned per Mark and Diane), the cost to refurbish current space (\$1-2 million per K Bodie) and can we be assured that MSBA will reimburse (Kevin will check with MSBA) currently our reimbursement rate is 47.21%. The committee reaffirmed moving forward as planned with the current plan.

Park Land Swap Update

Supt. Bodie reported that the Board of Selectmen held further action on the land swap article until there is more clarification on Article 97, Town Counsel is working on the specifics of this. The Committee will hold its next meeting, October 20th at the Thompson School with the Parks and Recreation Department.

MSBA Update/Schedule

Kevin Nigro reported that he spoke to the MSBA relative to moving the Thompson project to their January meeting.

November 1st the preliminary study is due to MSBA, December 1st the entire package is due for the December 15th MSBA subcommittee meeting. Also discussed was the MSBA Preliminary Reimbursement Rate Calculation sheet, Arlington is currently eligible for 47.21% reimbursement, other incentive points were included.

Study Process: Cost Estimate Review

Lori Cowles and George Metzger presented the cost estimates of the three options for the Thompson Rebuild Project:

- option 1 (renovation and addition) \$25,446,508
- option 2 (new school on existing site) \$26,044,979
- option 3 (new school on existing sports field) \$26,085,003

Town Manager Brian Sullivan distributed a MSBA list of elementary schools currently being built showing the project budget, construction costs and construction square footage cost and the stated that the Thompson projected estimates fell in line with MSBA project allowance.

John Cole pointed out that the committee must emphasize the rationale for special education being housed at Thompson and the savings of relocation cost

Evaluation Criteria Review

Lori Cowles and George Metzger reviewed the evaluation criteria sheet for the three alternatives which included categories on building, site/context, implementation and cost. Suzanne Robinson voiced concern that the committee was moving too fast and wanted more time to consider the criteria review. Lori will resend the criteria sheets, requested that committee members complete them and email their sheets to her for review at the next meeting. Bill Shea would like the Superintendent to present what it would take to house the Thompson students in district, what comprises would need to made in order to accomplish this i.e giving up music, art and science rooms. Supt. Bodie will do an analysis on current available classrooms and have it ready for the next meeting.

Approval/Vote of Invoices

On a motion by Diane Johnson seconded by Bill Shea it was unanimously Voted to approve HMFH invoice 996400 in the amount of \$35,000.

Approval/Vote of Minutes

On a motion by Bill Shea and seconded by Dominic Lanzillotti it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2010.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Thompson School.

The meeting adjourned @ 9:45 pm

Submitted by
Karen Tassone

Recording Secretary